office of the

MAYOR

CITY OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Dr. Stanley B. Winters entered this world on June 5, 1924, but in spite of his many subsequent achievements and contributions to the life and reputation of the City of Newark, this date has never been properly commemorated here (partly because we members of the City Commission in 1924 were too preoccupied with meadows land deals to realize what this particular birth portended for our city); and

WHEREAS Dr. Stanley B. Winters early demonstrated his extraordinary wisdom by forsaking his native New York City and embracing the City of Newark, where he won renown as the Sage of Shanley Avenue and organized the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council, which skillfully fought City Hall, succeeded in delaying blight declarations -- if not the blight itself -- and provided a training ground for Tom Hayden before he discovered Jane Fonda; and during the turbulent 1960s Dr. Winters and his allies narrowly escaped alive from the infamous police raid on the "Swizzle with SWIVL" cocktail party to raise funds for insurgent South Ward candidates; and

WHEREAS Dr. Stanley B. Winters also sought election to the Newark City Council but never aspired to any higher office -- and any office would be higher -- and instead became champion, chronicler and critic of his adopted city, an unrivaled authority on the lives and works of Leo Carlin, Louis Danzig and David Kent, a convener of momentous conferences, an author or editor of numerous articles and a monumental book on Newark's recent past, and the writer of the only articles of any substance to appear in the Sunday New Jersey section of The New York Times in many years; and

WHEREAS Dr. Stanley B. Winters (a/k/a Lee Johnson)has demonstrated an uncanny ability to lead a double life -- at least in his literary pursuits -- by writing weighty treatises on Eastern European history while contributing local political columns to The New Jersey Afro-American, and his pungent prose has enabled him to immortalize many seemingly routine events -- such as his ride on a No. 25 Springfield Avenue bus -- and he now musters all his resources for what promises to be the crowning achievement of his career, the still-to-be-authorized biography of Kenneth A. Gibson; and

WHEREAS Dr. Stanley B. Winters, while roaming the globe, has repeatedly proclaimed his unfailing affection for the City of Newark, and he has also revealed in various ways an abiding fascination with outmoded automobiles and nearly extinct public officials, and an inexplicable attachment to original clippings from The Newark Evening News, as well as postcards from mildewed motels and dubious diners, and in all his many quests and quirks he has enjoyed the unwavering support and indulgence of his charming wife, Zdenka;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FREDERICK C. BREIDENBACH, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK FROM 1922 TO 1925, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM (rather belatedly and most posthumously, but quite sincerely)

JUNE 5, 1924, to be

DR. STANLEY B. WINTERS DAY

in the CITY OF NEWARK, N.J.,

and do call on all my successors in the mayoralty to admit that we have been somewhat remiss in this observance (as in a few other matters); and I do further call on all our citizens past and present to recognize at last the true significance of this date in the history of our great city, and to join in paying overdue homage to this mensch among menschen, and expressing appreciation also to his gracious and patient wife; and I do finally bestow on Dr. Winters full honorary citizenship in the City of Newark, N.J., with all of the rights and privileges -- and most of all, the legal liabilities -- appertaining thereto.

FREDERICK C. BREIDENBACH, MAYOR EMERITUS